



Informational Notes for EMDs and Local Officials

Bulletin #7 – March 7, 2002

January Ice Disaster Update

On January 30, a severe winter storm swept through Missouri disrupting power distribution and causing massive debris removal problems from Kansas City to northeast Missouri to the Iowa/Illinois state lines. Governor Holden asked for a presidential disaster declaration. His request was approved on February 6. On February 15, the disaster declaration was amended to add additional counties.

Counties declared for Individual Assistance (for individuals and businesses) and Public Assistance (publicly owned, special district and non-profits) are: Bates, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Chariton, Clay, Clinton, Henry, Howard, Knox, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lewis, Linn, Macon, Marion, Monroe, Pettis, Platte, Randolph, Ray, St. Clair, Saline, Shelby and Vernon.

Counties declared for Individual Assistance only (for individuals and businesses) are: Adair, Audrain, Barton, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Caldwell, Clark, Cooper, Daviess, DeKalb, Grundy, Livingston, Morgan, Ralls, Scotland, and Sullivan.

As of close of business on March 4, FEMA received 15,252 telephone registrations for assistance. FEMA has approved 1,647 Disaster Housing Assistance applications totaling \$2,016,409. The Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program has approved 102 grants totaling \$63,640. The Small Business Administration has approved 63 disaster loans for \$221,600.

SEMA held 14 Public Assistance Applicant Briefings throughout the affected counties for counties, cities, special districts, and non-profit organizations who suffered damages to public property from the winter storm.

Sheela Amin, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, sent a mitigation project request letter to over 400 county and municipal governments and rural electric cooperatives in the 43 declared counties. The ice storm related mitigation projects must be cost effective, problem solving and mitigation activities to be eligible for a grant. Any community or non-profit organization receiving a mitigation grant will be required to complete an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The deadline for submitting hazard mitigation projects is **March 15**.

Statewide Severe Weather Drill, March 12

The Statewide Weather Drill will be conducted at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 12. The backup date will be 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 14 if the test is canceled by the National Weather Service (NWS) on the 12th. **The drill will be broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) as a Tornado Warning using the TOR Code.** The Pleasant Hill NWS office will have a second drill at 6:30 p.m. for residents in the Kansas City metro area. The St. Louis NWS office will have a 6:30 p.m. weather drill for amateur radio in the St. Louis area.

Fire Grant Applications Due April 1st

FEMA will distribute Fire Grants totaling \$360 million beginning May 2002. Any fire department may apply for a grant. The applications must be submitted to FEMA via the Internet. The

interactive application package is available on line from the US Fire Administration web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/grants Application may be submitted between March 1 - April 1, 2002.

Fire departments can apply for eligible activities in **one (1)** of four different categories. Those categories are Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety (Training, Wellness, Firefighting Equipment or Personal Protective Equipment), Fire Prevention (Public Awareness, Code Enforcement or Arson Prevention), Emergency Medical Services (Training and Equipment) and Firefighting Vehicles.

MU FRTI Offers Fire Grant Q&A Via TCRC Network on March 12

MU FRIT and FEMA Region VII will present a Question and Answer session on the current Fire Act, Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 7 p.m. This A/Q will be broadcast over the TCRC network in Missouri. It will originate from the Hinkel Classroom 226. Rex Jennings, FEMA Region VII Fire Coordinator, will be available to answer and assist with any questions you may have regarding the application process.

The TCRC Sites include: will be broadcast from the following centers: Poplar Bluff, Delta Center, Mexico, Mineral Area TCRC at Park Hills, Nevada, Work Connections at Camdenton, Kirksville, Tri-Lakes at Reeds Spring, and Salem. For more information call MU FRTI at 800-869-3476.

Chemical Biological Person Emergency Guide Targeted Toward Citizens

Chemical Biological Personal Emergency Response Guide by Eric P. Shellhorn talks about steps private citizens can take to protect themselves in the event of a terrorist act. The author pools information from FEMA, the American Red Cross, CDC, EPA, DHHS, the US Army and National Defense Preparedness Office. Subject matter includes threats/targets, family disaster plan, shelter/evacuate, decontamination and coping. There is also an index on the most common chemical or biological agents. The book is \$12.95 and may be ordered from Steel Beach Productions, Inc., 8301 Cypress Plaza Drive Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256 or you may go to their Internet site at www.steelbeach.com/chembio.

Results Available from Homeland Security Communications Survey

The State Homeland Security Strategic Communications Subcommittee has released the results of its recent survey of local jurisdictions' regarding nearly 50 types of communication methods used before a disaster or emergency. According to Joye G. McElwee, subcommittee co-chairman, the survey seeks to identify which of these methods are used or not used in a respective municipality or jurisdiction, and which, in the opinion of the responding jurisdiction, are adequate, inadequate, or need improvement. The survey matrix was designed to rate communications usage by category, including during preparedness, response, recovery, and citizens to government phases. Twenty-seven EMA groups responded to the survey. According to survey results, the five top-ranked communication methods by category were:

Preparedness: press releases (26), Red Cross, FEMA, NOAA public awareness materials (26), e-mail (25), (government sponsored Outreach) (22), and websites (21). **Response:** NOAA Weather Radio (27), press releases (25) EAS (24), Radio Amateur Communication Service (RACES) (21), and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) (20). **Recovery:** press releases (26), press conferences (25), NOAA Weather Radio (24), RACES (21), and ARES (20). **Citizens to Government:** Calls/letters/e-mail, etc. to local officials (25), town hall meetings (22), neighborhood groups (17), with surveys and dedicated citizen telephone/complain lines both at (15).

For more information on the survey, contact Joye McElwee, Director, Springfield/Greene County Emergency Management, 833 N. Boonville (lower level), Springfield, Mo. 65802; (417-869-6040), or e-mail, (jmcelwee@greenecountymo.org).

Update On National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program for 1st Responders

Here is an update on how the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (NPS) Program will assist the states in treating first responders. In the near future, (no date has been set yet), Missouri will receive a unit dose stock of antibiotics to treat 2500 individuals. The antibiotics will be cipro, doxi, and amoxicillin packaged in a 10-day supply (20 tablets in each bottle). There will be 5 packages of this, so it has the capacity to treat a total of 12,500 people (more if we need to divide the bottles and repackage for a 5-day supply).

Missouri will also receive the antidote drugs for a chemical event. There will be 5 packages, which will treat a total of 10,000 people (2,000 per package). These packages will be released to the Department of Health and Senior Services. Since it was just recently learned these packages are coming, information is not yet available on how or where they will be stored. At this time we don't know the size of each package. Each state will receive a supply, with the amount to be determined by population.

Business Continuity Planning

Local officials and emergency management directors are often asked about "business continuity planning" and how it differs from all-hazards emergency management disaster planning for jurisdictions. The Winter 2002 issue of Disaster Recovery Journal contains some useful information on this subject, as outlined in an article by John Glenn. For more information, view the magazine's website at www.drj.com.

SEMA Offers Series of Short Courses Available upon Request

SEMA has a number short training courses available on request that may help you with specific training needs in your jurisdiction. These courses include overviews of the integrated emergency management system, the integrated command system, Missouri hazards and damage assessment. In many cases, these courses can be tailored to a specific audience such as new elected and appointed officials. They can be scheduled during the evening and weekend hours to accommodate demanding work schedules. For more information, contact your Area Coordinator, or visit our website under training for a listing of short courses available.

St. Louis Area Quarterly Meeting Rescheduled

The March 20 Area Coordinators meeting at St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management has been postponed. The meeting will take place on April 17, at 10:00 AM at the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management.

Eureka Emergency Management Sponsors CERT Class

The Eureka Emergency Management CERT program will begin its next training program on April 1, 2002. The first class will be an orientation and setting up training dates to accommodate schedules. The first class will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Eureka Police Station. Residents of Eureka and surrounding area are welcomed to attend the class.

CERT Teams are made up of volunteers who have completed the course outlined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These volunteers would then help public safety organizations within the community if a disaster strikes. Bi-annual training for the volunteers will be required. To register for the class, contact Eureka Police Department at 636-938-6600.

Training opportunities in the St. Louis Area

03-12/13, Hazardous Weather @ CEMA/St. Louis
03-19, Weather Spotter Training @ Troy Fire House 7:00PM
03-19/20/21, Disaster Recovery Operations (APS) @ CEMA/St. Louis
04-09/10, Emergency Response to Criminal/Terrorist Incident @ CEMA/St. Louis
04-16/17/18, ICS-Basic @ CEMA/St. Louis
04-23, Responder Awareness WMD @ CEMA/St. Louis
04-24, Responder Operations WMD @ CEMA/St. Louis

Lafayette Area Mutual Aid Agreement Advances

Eight cities in St. Louis County are continuing efforts towards the Lafayette Area Mutual Aid Agreement. Those cities are Ballwin, Chesterfield, Clarkson Valley, Ellisville, Manchester, Town & Country, Wildwood, and Winchester. Since none of these municipalities operates their own fire department, fire and related EMS would not be included in this agreement.

St. Louis County Will Test WMD Response in May Exercise

St. Louis County continues planning for a full-scale WMD exercise to take place in May. Participating agencies include Police Agencies from St. Louis County, Clayton, Washington University, Creve Coeur, Florissant and the FBI. Participating Fire Agencies are Clayton, Central Core Fire Trainers Coordinates, Central Fire Alarm, County HazMat Team. Health Agencies participating are County Health Department and the County Medical Examiners Office. Hospitals participating are St. Johns Mercy, Barnes, Children's Hospital, Barnes West, St. Mary's, Missouri Baptist, Veterans Administration, St. Louis University, DePaul, and St. Joseph/Kirkwood. Approximately 300 people from the above agencies will participate in the exercise.

SEMA Spring Newsletter Posted to Internet

The SEMA Spring Newsletter and the Spring Severe Weather Campaign are posted on the SEMA home Internet page. The hard copy of the newsletter is at the printers and should be mailed within the next few weeks.

SEMA is working with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to produce a 30-second television Public Service Announcement (PSA) featuring Governor and Mrs. Holden promoting NOAA weather tone alert radios. The television PSAs will be mailed to all commercial and cable television companies in Missouri. Additionally, SEMA will mail a press announcement about the campaign to all Missouri newspapers and radio stations to coincide with the television PSAs. The information will also be posed to the Internet. Consider forming a partnership with local retailers to promote NOAA tone alert weather radios. Make sure you pass this important information your local newspaper, radio or television stations. Our goal is to provide timely severe weather information, which will protect our citizens and their families.